

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10438 070443Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /084 W

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R 070338Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1886

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, XC

SUBJECT: APCAC: TAIWAN ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING OF HONG KONG AMCHAM'S APAC COMMITTEE AGREED TO OPPOSE AT JAKARTA MEETING POSITION APER OFFERED BY TAIPEI AMCHAM WHICH INTER ALIA STATES THAT ABROGATION US/ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY IS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO PROTECTION OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS" ON TAIWAN. HONG KONG COMMITTEE ALSO WENT ON RECORD AS STRONGLY ENDORSING HIGH-LEVEL USG PARTICIPATION AT APCAC MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. HONG KONG AMCHAM RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM TAIPEI AMCHAM POSITION PAPER ON US/ROC ECONOMIC RELATIONS PREPARED FOR UPCOMING APCAC MEETING. TAIPEI PAPER OUTLINES POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE FOR US/ROC ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH PRC, ASKS "WHAT'S IN IT FOR US" AND CONCLUDES THAT MAINTENANCE OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND PROTECTION OF US ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN TAIWAN SHOULD BE MINIMUM
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PAGE 02 HONG K 10438 070443Z

US NEGOTIATING DEMANDS.

3. HONG KONG AMCHAM, ACTIVE IN PROMOTION OF TRADE WITH PRC, PREDICTABLY GAGGED OVER ENDORSEMENT OF SUCH A POSITION BY THE APCAC.

4. CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS IN FAVOR OF FOLLOWING STRATEGY: (A) PROFESS UNDERSTANDING FOR POLITICAL POSITION IN WHICH AMCHAM TAIPEI FINDS ITSELF, (B) SUGGEST THAT APCAC SHOULD KEEP TRADE AND POLITICS SEPARATE AND THAT MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, THEREFORE, NOT APPROPRIATE FOR APCAC TO BE TAKING POSITIONS ON, (C) IF NECESSARY, INDICATE HONG KONG'S WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT NON-POLITICAL PLANK WHICH CALLS FOR OVERALL PROTECTION OF US ECONOMIC INTERESTS. STRONG PREFERENCE OF MEMBERS WAS THAT APCAC SIMPLY NOT ADDRESS ISSUE AT ALL.

5. WHILE MAKING THIS APPROACH TO THE TAIWAN GROUP, HONG KONG WILL ALSO SUGGEST TO THE OTHER AMCHAM PARTICIPANTS THAT THE TIMING OF THE APCAC JUST BEFORE THE US ELECTIONS WILL, IN ITSELF, NEGATE ANY REAL IMPACT THAT THEIR POLICY DECISION MIGHT HAVE ON THE USG. WILL ALSO SOUND OUT JAKARTA AMCHAM ON ANTICIPATED GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD PASSAGE BY APCAC OF CONTROVERSIAL CHINA ISSUE IN HOPE OF GAINING STRONG SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG POSITION FROM HOST CHAMBER. IF THE STRATEGY FAILS, HONG KONG AMCHAM WILL PUBLICLY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM APCAC TAIWAN RESOLUTION.
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